

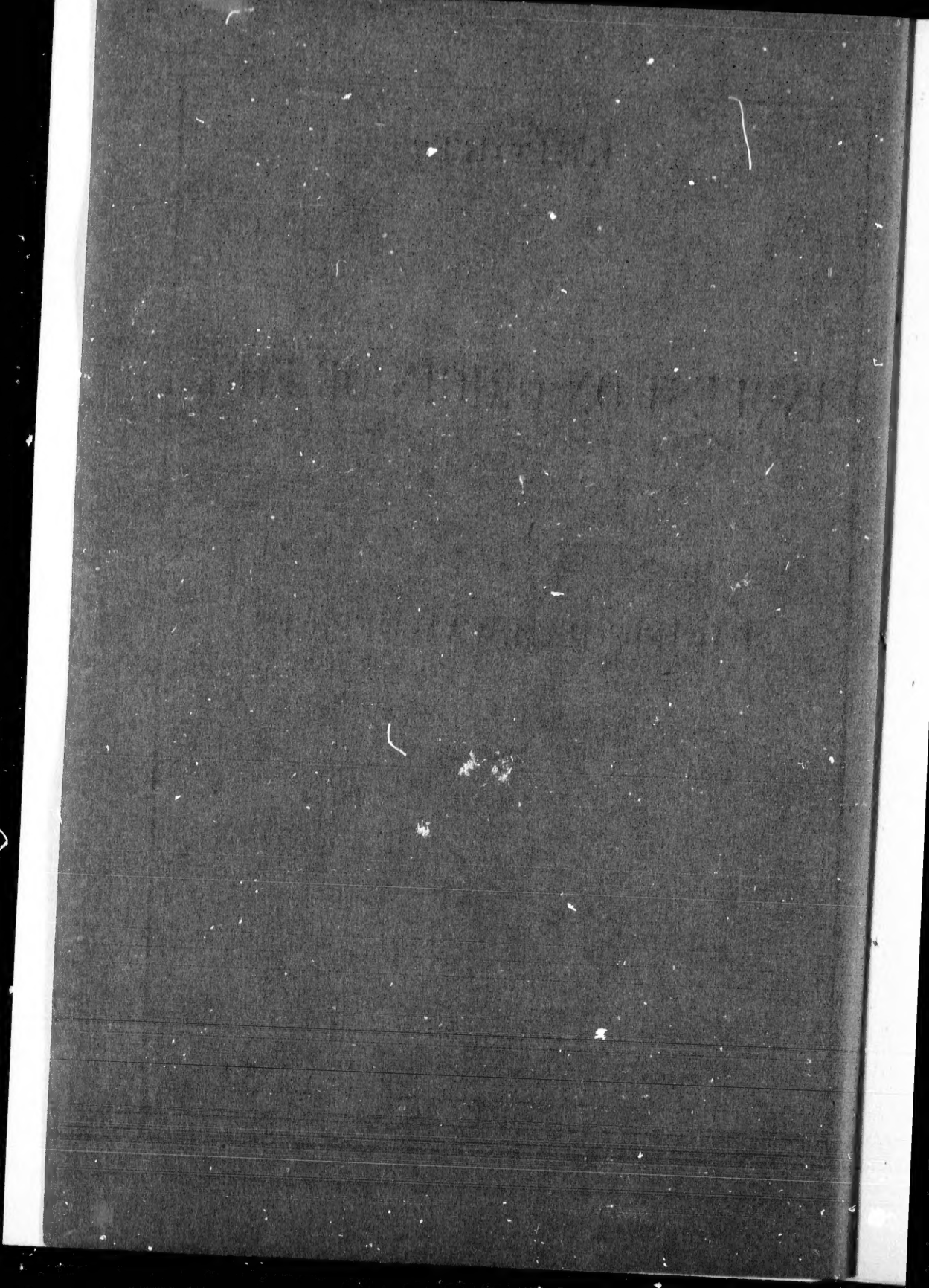
REPORT
OF
INQUEST ON ORIGIN OF FIRE
AT THE
PACIFIC RAILWAY OFFICES,

On 16th January, 1874.

Ottawa :

PRINTED BY MACLEAN, ROGER & CO., SOUTH WELLINGTON STREET.

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DOMINION OF CANADA,
County of Carleton, }
City of Ottawa, to wit :

AN INQUISITION INDENTED, taken for Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, at the Railway Committee Rooms, in the House of Commons, Ottawa, on the Twenty-first day of January, in the thirty-seventh year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lady, Victoria, before J. T. C. Beaubien, Esquire, one of the Coroners of Our said Lady the Queen, for the City of Ottawa and County of Carleton aforesaid, to enquire into the cause or origin of a certain fire which occurred in the said City of Ottawa, in the said thirty-seventh year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lady, Victoria, at or about the hour of half-past seven o'clock, in the evening of the 16th instant, whereby the building situate on the Government Grounds, in the said City of Ottawa, and known as the Offices of the Intercolonial and Pacific Railways, was consumed, upon the oath of William Cousens, foreman; John H. P. Gibson, Timothy Rajotte, Richard Stockdale, Hector McLean, William Bishop, William J. Topley, Joseph R. Esmonde, Alexander Duff, Timothy Kavanagh, Charles McCarron, Henry Hodges, Laughlin McQuarrie, good and lawful men of the said City of Ottawa, duly chosen from among the householders resident in the vicinity of the said fire, and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to enquire for Our said Lady the Queen, into the cause or origin of the said fire, and whether it was kindled by design, or was the result of negligence, or accident, do upon their oath say, That this jury are of opinion from the evidence before them, that the fire which occurred on the night of the 16th of January, 1874, the building occupied as offices of the Intercolonial and Pacific Railways, was occasioned by some means unknown to this jury. The following facts are prominent features in evidence, viz: That the fire in the grate in the room occupied by Messrs. Carre, Secretan and Forrest; and designated as room No. 8, on the plan submitted by Mr. Fleming, Chief Engineer, was quite low, in fact almost out; it does not clearly appear that the fire could have originated from that grate, although the fire occurred in that room; that the supervision of the building which contained very valuable documents was altogether defective, in fact the evidence proves that no one seems to have had supervision, that there was no provision against fire, that it was quite possible for an incendiary to have obtained access, for the purpose of carrying out his nefarious design, and that this jury are fully convinced that the Department of Public Works is decidedly deserving of censure for culpable negligence. That in the opinion of this Jury, from evidence before us, all the Public Buildings within our

knowledge in this city are in the same dangerous condition. That evidence has been given showing an improper use of the attics in the Departmental Buildings for purposes foreign to the original intention for which they were constructed, and also in reference to entire absence of ash pits, resulting in the ashes being carelessly thrown about to the great danger of fire; and this Jury recommend that all Public Buildings on Parliament Square be placed under one supervision, and that the party in charge be held responsible for fires occurring therein.

JACQUES THELESPIHORE CLEOPHASE BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

WILLIAM COUSENS, Foreman.

JOHN H. P. GIBSON,

TIMOTHY RAJOTTE,

R. STOCKDALE,

HECTOR McLEAN,

WILLIAM BISHOP,

WM. J. TOPLEY,

JOS. R. ESMONDE,

A. DUFF,

TIMOTHY KAVANAGH,

CHARLES McCARRON,

HENRY HODGES,

L. McQUARRIE.

DOMINION OF CANADA, }
COUNTY OF CARLETON,
City of Ottawa, to wit: }

Informations of Witnessess severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the fire that occurred on the evening of the 16th instant, at the house and premises known as the Intercolonial and Pacific Railway Offices, on the Government grounds, at the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton aforesaid, before me J. T. C. Beaubien, Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Coroners, in and for the City of Ottawa, and County of Carleton aforesaid; on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the offices above mentioned, said inquisition taken at the Railway Committee Rooms, House of Commons, Ottawa, as follows, that is to say:

I, SANDFORD FLEMING, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Chief Engineer of the Intercolonial and Pacific Railways, being sworn, saith:

I know the place which was burned on the evening of the 16th instant; am Chief Engineer of that Department; there were on the upper floor eight rooms; all of these were occupied as offices; there were on the lower floor about the same number of rooms, half of which were occupied as offices; in the other half of the lower floor, Mr. Deslaurier, the care-taker, with his family, lived; I had control of about twelve offices, or rooms. Immediately over the apartment where the cooking stove appears in the ruins, Henry Carre, Mr. Forest and Mr. Secretan, had a room in the building; I attended my office on Friday 16th; last time in the building was about five minutes to six o'clock; my own fire was very low; the fire in the adjoining room, which was occupied by my Secretary, Mr. Burpee, was almost entirely out; I extinguished the lights, and in the dark, could easily see any fires that might be blazing along the passage; I saw the blaze of one fire only, this was in the room occupied by Mr. Palmer, this room was the second room from the south westerly angle of the building on the upper floor, and had been occupied I believe by Mr. Rowan, Mr. Burpee, and Mr. Palmer, up to twenty or thirty minutes before I left; the fire in this room seemed perfectly safe, but to prevent any possible danger I took the poker and safely secured the coal in the grate; I then went out of the building, feeling assured that everything was as safe as usual; this was a few minutes before six o'clock; we had stoves in the passages and generally coal grates in the rooms. I believe that there was no other person in the upper floor of the building when I left. Descended by the southern end of the building facing the Western Block of the Departmental Buildings; this was the main entrance of the building. Mr. Deslaurier occupied the building with his family when all the Engineers were gone; Louis Besserer was the Messenger, and it was his duty to attend to the heating of the offices. It was also his business to see that the fires were out before leaving, but on this particular occasion, I think he left before me, as I was later than usual. Entrance door had two latches, one an ordinary latch, and the other a spring latch, which locked from the inside, the latter could only be opened from the outside by means of a key. Clerks had no keys, if they required to enter before the main entrance was opened, they had to go through the caretaker's apartments, or by a second side door, which was used by the Messenger chiefly for the purpose of carrying in wood, if it, the second door, happened to be open. It was not necessary for the Clerks to have their office doors locked; the passage was lighted by means of a window at each end. The door of Mr. Carre's room was a wooden door. Being Chief Engineer of the Department all things were under my charge. Have sustained heavy loss by the fire; with the exception of losing a friend it was by far the heaviest loss I ever sustained; have no knowledge whatever of how the fire originated, nothing whatever seen by me would lead me to believe there was more than usual danger.

About twenty minutes to eight o'clock, I first heard that my offices were on fire, I was closing some letters for the Mail in my own residence on Daly Street, when some one rushed in and announced that my offices were on fire. The Messenger's usual hour to leave the building was between four and five o'clock. The keys were in possession of the Caretaker and Messenger. There was little or no protection or provision against fire, other than having a person living on the premises. There was not as far as I know any Insurance on either Building or contents. The distance between my private residence and the building destroyed by fire may be about one and one quarter miles.

SANDFORD FLEMING.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, SANDFORD FLEMING, being recalled, state that exhibit marked A is an approximately correct sketch of the building destroyed by fire. The messenger did not have any instructions to remain on this occasion. Some of the partitions were of wood, and some were of stone. Was not in the room on the north easterly angle, upper floor, preparatory to my leaving the building. Saw no fire flickering in that direction. Room No. 8 was occupied by parties in connection with the Pacific Railway Survey. Rooms Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 were occupied by parties in connection with the Pacific Railway Survey almost exclusively.

SANDFORD FLEMING.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-third day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, JAMES SECRETAN, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Civil Engineer, being sworn, saith:

Am in the employ of Mr. Sandford Fleming, as the servant of the Government; was in their employ on the 16th instant; have been in the building which was destroyed by fire, and which the plan now shown to me, marked "A," represents, acting in the capacity of a Civil Engineer; according to the said plan my room was No. 8; Mr. Carre and Mr. Forest were in the habit of occupying the same room with me; recollect the evening of the fire; left room No. 8 about five minutes after four; left Mr. Forest in the office on this particular evening; had an open fire place or grate in the room; do not know who lighted the fire in room No. 8; had a coal fire in the room; had a small fender, but no fire screen; might possibly recognize fender if I saw it; kept on an ordinary fire; messenger supplied coal; left a small fire in the grate that evening; have been working in room 8 since last November; never did see enough fire remaining in the grate in the evening to exist until morning; room No. 8 was not carpeted; the boards on the floor run (to the best of my knowledge) parallel to the fire place; the floor was an old one; to the best of my knowledge there were no holes in the floor; have no recollection of any cracks in the floor except the ordinary disjoining of the boards; there was no stove pipe hole in the floor of room 8, but one through the partition on the west side of the room; do not think fender now produced is the one which was in room 8, though it is a similar one; under the fender there was a brick hearth, cannot say as to how far it extended, but think the outer portion or margin was of stone; have been in the kitchen of Deslaurier; think he kept his stove about the centre of the floor; was not at the

fire; had no precaution, such as water, in my room against fire; I have often thought that a fire might occur, owing to the dryness and amount of inflammable material in connection with the building; to my knowledge there was no precaution against fire, such as buckets of water, or beyond the mere ordinary precautions; there was an ordinary fire in the room on that particular evening; never saw any openings in the floor other than those which I have mentioned; do not know where the fire originated; did not see any strangers in the building; cannot say whether soft or hard coal was used.

J. N. E. SECRETAN.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-third day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, CATHERINE DESLAURIER, wife of John Deslaurier of the City of Ottawa in the said County of Carleton, Caretaker, being duly sworn, saith:

Am the lady who lived in the lower part of the building destroyed by fire on the 16th instant; know the room occupied by Mr. Secretan and Mr. Forrest; occupied the room immediately underneath room No. 8 as a kitchen; remember the evening of the fire; was at home during the evening; was there when the fire was first discovered; had a low fire in my kitchen stove when the fire was first discovered; the stovepipes from this stove passed immediately into the chimney; according to my recollection the stovepipes were a little lower at the elbow than they were at the chimney; were almost new; were about a foot and a half from the ceiling; have been in Mr. Carre's room; have swept and cleaned the rooms for a year or so; there is a fire grate in Mr. Carre's room; the fender now produced is similar to the one which was in his room. there was no fire guard in that room; there were two bars out of the grate, one out of the top, and the other out of the bottom; there was no repairing done to the grate during the time which I have been taking care of the room; have noticed openings in the floor of Mr. Carre's room; immediately opposite the grate there was a large crack in the floor, to the best of my judgment about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch wide; there were places on the floor boards where quite large chips would come off on sweeping; the greater portion of the dust accumulated on the floor would pass through the cracks on being swept; went as far as the door of Mr. Carre's room that morning; do not remember if I entered the room; know Mr. Mortimer; he has a room opposite Mr. Carre's room; it is heated by a stove; a piece of zinc was placed under the stove, and covered several large holes which were in the floor; have no knowledge as to what kind of coal was used in the room; about 5:45 o'clock I went up the stairs leading from my own apartments to the offices, and in consequence of hearing Mr. Fleming's and other voices I returned; my son Louis gave me the first intimation I had of the fire; from what he said to me I thought it was only the reflection of the fire in the grate; but told him to go up and see, he went and returned and said the place was full of smoke; he then went to a water barrel, got a pail of water and took it up with him; he told me he thought a single pailful would be sufficient to extinguish the fire, but on going up with a second pailful, was told by him not to go, as the place was full of smoke, and I would be smothered; he then told me that he had extinguished the fire, on being told that I returned to my kitchen; in the meantime I had sent to the Post Office for my husband, about this time he arrived; I also in the meantime went out to see if any person could be seen whom I could inform about the fire being on the premises; about this time the ceiling of my kitchen fell; the water had been thrown into room No. 8; the plaster of my kitchen was in good order, no holes or cracks being in it before the fire was discovered; it was not till after the water had been thrown on it, and I had come in from the outside of the building that the ceiling fell; the plaster fell into the kitchen about half way between

the stove and the chimney; the stove now occupies about the same place or position in the ruins as it did when in my kitchen; the fire when first discovered was in Mr. Carre's room; could see the smoke issuing from that room; there was no appearance of smoke or fire in my kitchen, when it was first discovered in Mr. Carre's room; the grate here produced is the one which was in Mr. Carre's room; did not notice any person leaving the building that evening; the first person who entered after the discovery of the fire were Peter Connolly and two Dominion Policemen; there were frequently large fires in the rooms after the clerks left; owing to it being an extremely cold day, it was hard to remain in the rooms without a large fire being kept on; could not say how long a time elapsed between the leaving of the clerks and the discovery of the fire; the door at the main entrance was kept locked after the departure of the clerks; the side door was also kept shut after their departure; the door of the Model Room was usually locked; Mr. Bowes kept the keys of this room; a person entering by the back door could not get to the offices without coming through my apartments; the door of the main entrance was locked on that particular evening; do not know whether the door on the south east corner of the building was locked on that particular evening; a person walking carefully could not easily reach the offices by entering the south east door, without being heard; my children were playing around the door on that evening, so that a person could not possibly enter without being seen by them; the boards on the floors were so open that I could easily hear the slightest noise, even to the walking of a cat; there was an iron bolt used for the purpose of locking the south east door, it was locked on the inside; the front door was locked by a spring latch and a bolt, the spring latch could be opened with a key from the outside; Mr. Fleming left somewhere in the neighborhood of six o'clock; I did not go to ascertain whether the front door was locked, but understand my husband on trying to gain an entrance to the fire did; I am the only person who was up stairs that morning; am certain no coal oil was upset on the floor, or any other part of the building.

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CATHERINE X DESLAURIER.
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Taken upon oath and acknowledged this Twenty-third day of January, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, LOUIS DESLAURIER, son of Isidore Deslaurier, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, being sworn, saith:

I recollect Friday, the 16th instant; I lived in the lower part of the house destroyed by fire, with my father; I went out to the water closet that evening, and when coming in saw what I took to be a fire upstairs; I went in and told my mother; saw it by a light in the window; I told her there must be a fire upstairs, as the windows were all red; I then procured a pail of water and took it up with me; I know only a few offices; I know Mr. Carre's room; I saw the light in the window over our kitchen; that was in Mr. Carre's room; I went upstairs and threw the water in his room; I went to the door and threw it in; I saw a fire in the room near the grate; I know where the grate was and saw the fire near it; the fire that I saw came from the floor, and was quite near the grate; the flame was quite large and wide; I was at the door only, and not in the room, when I saw it; I did not go in, as there was too much smoke; the door was open when I first went up; I had an opportunity of looking into the room and of seeing the fire; the fire grate was to the right of the door, and in the wall to the right; the door opened on the left hand side; I have not been in the habit of going into room No. 8; from where I stood I could not see the grate owing to the light in the room; my mother was near me

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coming upstairs with a pail full of water; she could not go any further on account of the smoke being so dense; after I came down stairs she sent me up to the Post Office for pa; I went, and when going saw one of the Clerks of the Public Works Department, and told him about the fire; I think it was Mr. Fortier; after I came back from the Post Office pa sent me to tell the Dominion Police; I went and told them; I went to the West block first; this was after I had been trying to put the fire out, and had returned from the Post Office; the Police came up to the building destroyed after I told them; saw them working at the hose; this was after I had told them; they were taking them out and fixing them so as to play on the fire; I have brothers and sisters; I was not playing outside the door that evening; I do not know if any strangers entered the building that evening; Mr. Fleming went out a few minutes before; I know the door Mr. Besserer used to carry wood through; I distinctly remember shutting and locking it that evening; I did so about an hour before I discovered the fire; it was fastened with a bolt; I was on the inside when I closed it; the bolt was on the inside; I pushed it into the staple and made the door fast; I then went out into the passage by the door leading into the same, and out of it by the main entrance door; I, from being in the habit of closing the door, closed it that evening; my mother gave me the instructions about always closing the door; I have been in the habit of closing it for about a year; I recollect fastening it that evening, and going out of the door of the main entrance; there was a small fire in the kitchen stove that evening; I had been in the house about three hours, after coming from school, before I discovered the fire; the fire in our stove was not at all a large fire from the time of my coming from school, and the discovery of the fire; I distinctly saw the floor of room No. 8 burning; I have not been instructed as to the manner in which I should answer questions here; I did not discover any particular smell when I first went upstairs, such as coal oil; I do not think there was any tar on the premises; there was a coal oil lamp in Mr. Fleming's room; the coal oil was kept in our apartments.

LOUIS DESLAURIERS.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, HORATIO F. FORREST, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Civil Engineer, being sworn, saith:

I live in the City of Ottawa, at No. 65 Sparks street; I am employed on the Engineering Staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway; according to the plan now produced I was in room No. 8; I was in the office on the 16th instant; I left about ten minutes after four; Mr. Carre and Mr. Secretan were employed in the same room; I was in the office for about five minutes after Mr. Secretan left; the room was heated by a grate; we had a fire on that day; for about an hour previous to my leaving the fire was very low, if not quite out; I have not paid any particular attention as to the condition of the floor; we did not have any light in the room that evening; there were no gas fixtures in the room; we were not in the habit of using any lights; I do not smoke; Mr. Secretan occasionally smoked in the room; he generally smoked a pipe; to the best of my recollection he smoked a pipe that day; we were not supplied with matches in that room, consequently we had no match box; strangers were not in the habit of coming into the building; occasionally an Engineer from some other office would come in; I have no knowledge as to the origin of the fire; remember well the grate in the room; it was minus the upper bar; I believe that was the only bar out of it; I never gave any particular consideration to the state of grate; I do not think a person could enter the building after office hours by the

south eastern door, though I think they could during the day; I do not think a person could secrete himself in the building during the day in such a manner that he could not be seen by the Clerks on leaving; I have not the slightest idea as to the manner in which the south east door was fastened; it was not customary for the Clerks to enter by it; there were bricks immediately under the ash pan in connection with the grate, and a stone hearth immediately in front of it; to the best of my recollection it would be about two feet by three and a half feet in size; also to the best of my recollection there was no fender, but an ash pan immediately under the grate; I distinctly remember being annoyed that day with the messenger for not giving us a sufficiency of coal; there was a stove pipe which entered our room from Mr. Mortimer's room and passed into the chimney; I presume there was a fire in the stove during that day; I cannot say as to whether there was any protection in the partition against fire; to the best of my knowledge there were no matches in the room; it would be necessary for coals to fall two feet, or over the hearthstone, to cause fire; I remember an occasion when a coal fell off the grate and rolled on the floor; I cannot say whether it was a live coal or not; in my opinion it would be almost impossible for coals pressed down in the grate to fall out over the stone and on the floor; on this occasion I do not think it would be possible for a coal to fall out of the grate on the floor, as the fire was nearly if not quite out; in my opinion the fire could not originate from the grate as left by me that evening; there was very little waste paper lying around; there was some tracing paper at a distance from the fire; I have been occasioned a very heavy loss by the fire; without exception all the clerks have lost more or less by it.

HORATIO F. FORREST.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, LOUIS BESSERER, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Messenger, in the employ of the Government, being sworn, saith:

I am the Messenger in connection with the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific Railways Offices; I have been messenger in that Department for about four years; my duties have always been in connection with the offices in the building lately destroyed; my duties were to go with messages, light the fires, and supply coal and wood; I always lighted the fires in the mornings; I did not put out the fires at night; I do not know whose duty it was to extinguish them; I never received any orders to do so; my hours were from about eight to four-thirty; I remember the fire of the 16th instant; I was in room No. 8 that day; the last time I was in it was about half-past three that evening; Mr. Secretan and Mr. Forrest were in the room then; I noticed the fire-place then, and I am positive I saw a fire in the grate at the time; it was a very fair fire; soft coal was used; I have occasionally discovered a slaty substance on the grate when cleaning it; there were two bars out of it, one out of the top, and one out of the bottom; the top bar has been out since last winter; the lower bar came off this winter; I recognise the grate now shown to me as the one which was in room No. 8; the under bar was broken off about the middle of December last; I lighted the fires with shavings and kindling wood; I kept those materials in room No. 11, known as the lumber room; I did not keep any kindling wood in room No. 8; I used matches to light the fires; kept them in my pocket; there was a stovepipe which came from Mr. Mortimer's room into room No. 8; the stovepipes were new; they were put up last fall; I do not know what manner of protection against fire was used in the wall; I did not notice any paper on the floor that evening; I did not see any person smoking in the room that evening; some of the

Clerks were in the habit of smoking in that room; a pipe was generally used; there was not a waste paper basket in that room; waste paper was kept in a box in the lumber room; I applied to Mr. Burne, Mr. Fleming's Secretary, when any thing was out of order; I did not report to Mr. Burne the bad state of that grate; I have no particular reason as to why I did not, in fact no encouragement was shown when an application was made; I have noticed that portion of the floor of the room which is opposite the grate; it was an old and a very rickety floor; there was a crack in it about six inches from the stonework or hearth; it was about eighteen inches from the grate; I believe the stone extended from the grate outwards about twelve inches; there was no brick work in connection with the hearth, excepting immediately under the grate; there were other cracks in the floor and opposite the grate though smaller; I do not know whether the clerks used the cracks habitually for the purposes of a spittoon; I have always attended around the offices, and have often been in No. 8 during the day; I have often gone there in the morning and lighted the fires with coals that remained on the grate from the previous evening; it had been on the fire and was partly burnt; the fender was an ordinary one, similar to the one now produced; I have often seen coals lying around the grate; the stone extended three or four inches outside the fender when it was in its proper place; I have seen the wooden moulding which surrounded it scorched by the coals which had fallen from the grate; the moulding was about one-fourth of an inch above the hearth-stone and about one-half of an inch above the floor; during cold days the clerks would keep on large fires; I have discovered fired coals in the grate of room 8 in the morning, generally between 8 and 9 o'clock; I have found it so this winter, since the grate was broken in the bottom; I have also found fire in other rooms in the morning; I have never told any person in reference to the fire being there in the morning; I do not know whether the clerks worked late on the evenings previous to the finding of the fire in the grate; I did not tell any person about the coal dropping on the floor; Friday, the 16th instant, was a very cold day; I always kept a sufficiency of coal in the rooms; I gave them the usual amount on that day; I arrived at the fire when the building was nearly destroyed; I have no knowledge as to the origin of the fire; I live on Augusta Street; I did not notice any strangers in the building that day; I did not see any cigar stumps lying on the floor that morning, owing to the rooms having been swept before I came; I entered by Mr. Deslaurier's door; the south-east door was not fastened on that evening when I left; I have not noticed any strangers around the building, excepting enquirers for Mr. Fleming; I am not aware of any tar being used in or about the premises; at one time there were two latch keys for the door of the main entrance; a Mr. Steers had one, the other was broken; Mr. Fleming could not get in when the main entrance door was locked, unless he went by Mr. Deslaurier's apartments; the spring latch was fastened back during the day; I do not know who was charged with the locking of the doors; an individual could not secrete himself in the lumber room without being seen; it contained some old boxes and other old material; there was no place in the building where an individual could secrete himself; the only access to the garret was through a small hole in the ceiling; there was a ladder from the ground on the outside to the top of the building; that ladder could not be used as a means of access to the building; there were double windows on the building; I did not examine the windows on that day; it was not possible for a person to get into room 8 from the model house roof; there was a window on the model-room, and also one in room 8.

LOUIS BESSERER.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this Twenty-sixth Day of January, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, ISIDORE DESLAURIER, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, messenger in the service of the Government, being duly sworn, saith:

I am Chief Messenger of the Department of Public Works; I am the person who occupied a portion of the lower storey of the building destroyed by fire, as a dwelling; I occupied four rooms, Nos. 13, 14, 15 and 16, according to the plan filed and marked "A;" I remember the evening of the 16th instant; I was sitting in the Post Office waiting for the mail, when my son Louis came in and told me to hurry home, that he had seen a blaze in one of the rooms upstairs; I at once went home; I saw my wife and went upstairs, and saw the smoke was very dense; I told my wife not to be alarmed, as I thought it was some of the pipes which had become disconnected; I then requested a candle, got it, and went upstairs again; I penetrated as far as the door of No. 8; I could not distinguish anything, not even the candle, so dense was the smoke; I then came down stairs to room No. 16, and told my wife and children to alarm the police; I also went out to give the alarm; I ran from my kitchen door to the door of the lumber room; I will not say positively that it was not locked, as I used a great deal of force when I came in contact with it; I ran against it with full force; I then went upstairs and opened the window over the front porch; this window was in the passage; I then tried to get as far as Mr. Fleming's room on my hands and knees; I succeeded; I went as far as my private stairs; my wife was at the bottom of them; she told me there was a bucket of water at the top of them, and I had better use it; I took the water as far as Mr. Carre's room and threw it in; I heard a fizzing noise, which the water made as it came in contact with the fire; I then came down to my own kitchen and told my wife that she had better get herself and the children out as quickly as possible; at the same time I told one of my boys to go and tell all the police he could see that the house was on fire; about this time about 6 feet square of my ceiling fell in; it fell on about the middle of the floor; I had a punchon of about 80 gallons of water in my kitchen; I threw about a dozen buckets at the fire; I then got a small hand pump and used it as long as the water lasted; between times I would run out and call out an alarm; Peter Connolly and two Dominion Police came into the room when I was throwing up the water; I did my utmost to extinguish the fire; the policemen assisted in trying to extinguish it by getting out the hose; I had frequently been in room No. 8; a grate and a small iron fender were used in that room; the fender was similar to the one now produced; there was a cement hearthstone of about 18 inches in width, with a batting of wood around it, immediately in front of the grate; there was also cement laid on bricks immediately under the grate; I have been in the habit of going into Nos. 3 and 4 and the passage upstairs, and 12 downstairs; I also went into No. 8 to examine the fire; this was on my regular rounds to examine the fires, and generally between 7 and 12 o'clock; I have found fires in some of the grates, but not any of any account; I have often seen fire in No. 8 in the evening; there was a board floor of that room; there was no carpet; the floor was very old; I have often swept the room and found when done that I had no dust to lift up, as it went through the cracks in the floor; from what I saw I believe the fire originated in room No. 8; I lose by the fire to the extent of about \$600; I did not have any insurance; any person could have opened the south east door, as I opened it that evening; I am of the opinion that it was my duty to see that the doors were locked; I was never told that I had to close and lock them; I did it as much for my own security as otherwise; I did not see any strangers around the building that evening; I was aware of there being maps in the building, though as to what extent or the nature of them I am ignorant; the bolt used to lock the south east door was about 8 inches long and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick; a staple fastened with four screw nails to the door frame secured the door; I tried the door of the main entrance that evening and found it was locked; I have on several different occasions requested that the building be supplied with water, on account of my apprehensions as to fire; I spoke to Mr. Hutchinson about bringing up a water pipe to the building destroyed by fire, from some of the other buildings; he said he supposed it would not be much trouble to do so, but did not think the

Government would do it, as they intended pulling the building down; I also spoke to Mr. Hudson in reference to it; he told me he had no authority in the matter; I also mentioned the matter to Mr. Scott, Chief Architect of the Dominion; he thought it advisable to have water brought to the building, and said he would see about it; there were no steps taken to prevent fire; my wife could have heard any person, had they attempted it, forcing the south east door, if it were locked; the window between room No. 8 and the model room was bolted at the top and at the bottom; there was not a double sash on the window; it was possible for a person to enter room No. 8 from the model room, if the window was not locked, and he had the assistance of a small ladder; I did not notice any negligence on the part of any person in trying to extinguish the fire; fire fenders were used in three rooms; the Dominion Police had nothing to do, either directly or indirectly, with the interior of that building.

ISIDORE DESLAURIER.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this Twenty-sixth Day of January in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, Isidore Deslaurier, being recalled, saith: I never was told by Mr. Fleming, or any other person in authority, that there were valuable papers and other valuable property on the premises; I am satisfied that I lost property at the fire, which I would have saved had I not gone up stairs to save property there; yesterday morning I discovered the floor burning in Mr. Trudeau's office, Department Public Works, from two coals which had fallen on the floor from the grate; I called the Deputy Minister's attention to it; the fender in this room is about ten inches high; exhibit marked "G" is a correct schedule of part of the articles lost by me at the fire.

ISIDORE DESLAURIER.

Taken before me upon oath and acknowledged this 30th day of January, A. D., 1874.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, HENRY CARRE, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Civil Engineer, being sworn, saith:

I am an engineer under Mr. Fleming, on the Pacific Railway service; I remember Friday the 16th instant; according to the plan now shown to me, my room is described as No. 8; I was in it that day; I left it a few minutes after four; I do not think I left any one in it that evening, but think I was the last person in it; I left about ten minutes after four; I cannot say how much fire was in the grate then, but I believe it was small; we did not have a sufficiency of coal that day; I have no knowledge as to the origin of the fire; I left the building by the door of the main entrance that evening; I have had possession of that room since last November; I have often seen coals hopping off the grate and falling on the fender; when the fender was in its place I would say the hearthstone would extend about two feet to the outside of it; I think the hearthstone went up to the wall of the chimney; I think there were bricks underneath the grate; I do not think the fire could have originated from the fire which was left in the grate that evening; the fact of a bar being out of the bottom of the grate does not alter my opinion; a person could easily get to my room from the model-room; I cannot say as to whether there was an outside sash to the model-room window; there was a fastening on the window between my room and the model-room; I never remarked to others

than those in the office about the danger caused by the coals falling on the floor; I made a remark to Mr. Palmer that day in reference to it; I believe common coal was used; I heard the alarm given that evening; I enquired as to the cause of the alarm, and was told some shanties were on fire; I was afterwards told it was the House of Commons; I then hastened to the place and ascertained the correct place; the pipes which came from Mr. Mortimer's room were inferior pipes; I have no knowledge as to the precautions in the wall against fire; I am a loser by the fire.

HENRY CARRE.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this Twenty-sixth Day of January in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, JAMES PEARCE, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, aforesaid, Dominion Policeman, being sworn, saith:

I am a member of the Dominion Police Force; the detail now shown to me is the one which was used on the 16th instant; four was my number; according to this detail I would be at the Western block between 6 and 7 that evening examining the doors and windows; I was there then; there was an alarm of fire given me that evening by two of Mr. Deslaurier's children; when I received the alarm I went towards the building, and when at the corner of the West block I met Mrs. Deslaurier with some of her children; I told her to go or send word to the police in the East block; I then went to the House of Commons, believing I could get the hose better from it than the other building, as it was nearer the fire; when I came to Mr. Cardinal's I found it locked; I knocked at it; Mr. Cardinal opened it; I requested him to either get the hose out or get some of the firemen to get them out, as there was a fire in Mr. Deslaurier's house; he told me I had better go down to the boiler house and see the firemen; I went and saw two of them; I asked to assist me in getting the hose out, at the same time telling them of the fire; they told me they could not leave the boilers, as they were firing up at the time; I asked them if there were any other firemen in the building; they told me there was another fireman, but he had gone to examine the pipes and tanks; I then came back to Mr. Cardinal's room with the intention of returning to the West block; I there met Mr. Fitzsimmons, the night watchman; I asked him if he would show me where the hose were, and if he could assist me in getting them out; he told me he could not give any hose without an order; I said I did not have an order, but must get them somehow; I then left the building with the intention of going to the West block to get out the hose there; when I had gotten outside I met Mr. Macdonald, Sergeant-at-Arms; he was running towards the door from which I came; I asked him if he could get the hose; I understood him to say, yes; I returned with him to the building; he told the men there, Mr. Fitzsimmons, David Long, a fireman, and Mr. Cardinell, to get the hose out; the fireman said the hose had been taken down to the other building at the fire on the previous evening; I then went to the Western block and assisted in getting out the hose there; I remained there during the fire at the window in the water closet through which the hose passed; I went up after the City Brigade left; I did not see any hose coming from the House of Commons; there was a plentiful supply of water coming from the West block; there is a Sergeant in connection with the Dominion Police Force; the Superintendent is Detective O'Neill; I have been surprised on duty; we are regularly instructed in fire duty once a month; I can tell the number of any hydrant in the dark; with the exception of one or two new members I think all can do the same; they (the new hands) are being instructed in

the drill ; we do not have access to the rooms in the buildings at night unless we see a light in them ; then, if we cannot otherwise get in, we can force the door ; I cannot name any gentleman who is in the habit of keeping his office locked ; with few exceptions all the offices in the Post Office Department and Department of Militia and Defence are kept locked ; I have occasionally found light in the rooms, and have reported the same to the door-keeper ; we went to the rooms and put them out ; the doors were not locked ; I have been in the Police Force for three years last November ; the men are expected to examine and put out all lights they see, unless they are in immediate use ; I have seen a charwoman using keys to open the doors ; I do not know where they got them.

JAMES PEARCE.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, JOHN JACKSON, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, a Sergeant in the Dominion Police Force, being sworn saith :

I was No. 1 on the West Block on the evening of the fire ; my duties commenced at six o'clock in the evening, and ended at twelve, midnight ; I had charge of the door ; I was told by a child of Mr. Deslaurier that their house was on fire ; as soon as I had ascertained that what he said was true, I put the hose on hydrant " B," West Block, and ran them out through the water-closet window ; there was no unnecessary delay in putting them out ; this hydrant is at the south entrance door ; the water-closet is situated immediately opposite it ; there was not any person outside to receive the hose when they were first put out ; according to our rules I would have been unfaithful to my duty had I left the door ; I am not aware of any wire or other communication between the Eastern and Western blocks ; I am aware of spirits and coal oil being tested in the basements of the Eastern and Western Blocks ; I know that the attics are entirely composed of wood, and would make excellent burning material ; I am also aware of a blacksmith's forge being in the attic of the West Block, near the model-room ; I am also aware of a fire originating in the room used for testing coal oil, in the basement of the West Block ; I did all I possibly could to extinguish the fire of the 16th instant ; I did not notice any negligence on the part of parties at the fire ; the fire in the testing room occurred within the past year.

JOHN JACKSON.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this Twenty-seventh Day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, EDWARD JOHN O'NEIL, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Superintendent of the Dominion Police Force, being sworn saith :

On Friday, the 16th instant, there were four men on supervision, being the largest number that the number of policemen then in connection with the Government would allow ; their names and numbers were : Caine, No. 4 ; Brock, No. 2 ; Murphy, No. 3 ; and Pearce, No. 4 ; the duties of these men were to superintend the exterior of the Buildings ; the hose of the different hydrants are now and have

been in a very bad state of repair, though I have frequently reported the fact; there was one portable hydrant reel, though I have never seen any hose on it; there is a very large quantity of hose in the Buildings, though in a very bad state of repair; there are some good hose, which are kept for the attics; the force of water through the hose from the West Block was strong, whereas that from the House of Commons was extremely weak and of little or no account; a large number of the rooms in the Departmental Buildings are kept locked by the clerks; I have no keys which will unlock these doors, and in case I want them open I will have to force them; there are not any ash pits for either of the Buildings; I have recommended their construction to the Board of Works; they have not been constructed; hot ashes have been and now are taken out of the Buildings each evening, and are allowed to blow around and create great danger; I received a verbal answer to my report from the Hon. Mr. Langevin, then Minister of Public Works, to the effect that the necessary pits would be made; I have also reported this fact to Col. Bernard; I recommended in that report that the management of the Fire Department be left entirely in my charge; I have no power to enforce the repairing of any fire apparatus; after the fire in the testing-room, mentioned by the last witness, had taken place, I sent in a report of the fact to the Government, and in that report I asked that a wire be made to connect all the Public Buildings and Police Guard Room, and as each of the buildings had powerful telegraphic batteries, the expense would be trifling; I also requested in that report that the spirit-testing room, and forge in the attic, be removed; I believe the oil-testing room was removed; I once saw a large barrel of highwines in the spirit-testing room; I believe that the present cost would be very little exceeded, if the House of Commons were also placed under my immediate supervision, allowing me the same brigade which is at present in attendance on the buildings.

E. J. O'NEILL.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this Twenty-seventh Day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, THOMAS PRUNEAU, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Gentleman, being sworn, saith:

I am Superintendent of the Board of Public Works' shop; I remember the fire on the 16th instant; I first saw it between 7 and 8 o'clock; I was at the "Queen's Hotel" when I heard the first alarm; I went to the fire immediately; when passing along the outside I saw a fire upstairs in room No. 8; I went into Deslaurier's apartments and requested a lantern for the purpose of going upstairs; on seeing it was impossible to go upstairs I went to the Western block; I there got a lamp from some man and went back to the fire; I entered by the main entrance, and went upstairs with two or three other men, but was compelled to return on account of the denseness of the smoke; at this time the rooms were all on fire; on coming downstairs I entered room No. 9; I directed the gentlemen with me to open the window; I also directed them to take the paper in that room out by the window; after that I went outside; I then tried with the assistance of others to extinguish the flames; I do not know anything as to the origin of the fire; every person I saw worked diligently to extinguish it; I am not in possession of the name of the gentleman who informed me of the fire; the door of the main entrance was open when I went to it; it might have been five or six minutes after my arrival.

THOMAS PRUNEAU.

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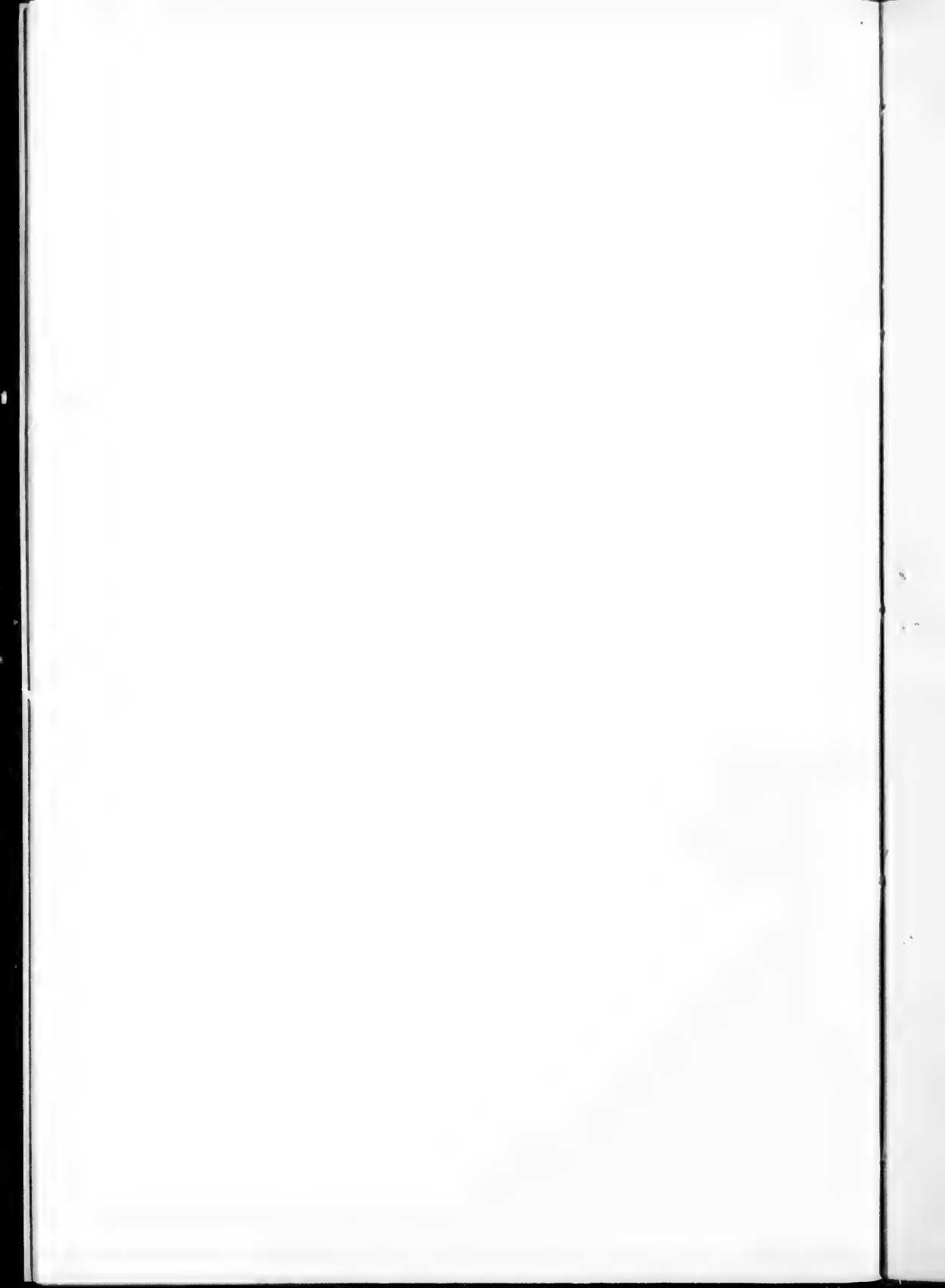
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Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, PETER CONNOLLY, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Messenger in the service of the Government, being sworn, saith :

I was one of the first persons at the fire on the 16th instant; from what I saw of it I believe it originated in room No. 8; I did all I could to extinguish it; I did not witness any negligence; my impression is the door of room No. 8 was closed, though it might have been opened; I did not see any flame; I have no knowledge as to its origin.

P. CONNOLLY.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, L. NAPOLEON FORTIER, of the City of Ottawa, in the said County of Carleton, Civil Service Clerk, being sworn, saith :

I am employed in the Department of Public Works; Mrs. Deslaurier told me of the fire on the 16th instant; at that time I was about 30 yards from the Western block; she requested me to inform the Police that her dwelling house was on fire; I told them the Pacific Railway Offices were on fire; they immediately went out; I volunteered to have the City alarm bell rung, and did so; I immediately went back, to the Western block; I saw there three Dominion Policemen getting out the hose and assisted them; after they had been passed through the water closet window, I went around to the rear of the building and saw four men working at the hose with Mr. Pruneau; when I got there the fire had extended into three rooms; I did not see any idle persons around.

LUCIEN N. FORTIER.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, before me.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, THOMAS STEERS, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Accountant, being sworn, saith :

I had an office (No. 9) according to the plan now produced, in the building destroyed by fire on the 16th instant; I entered the building by the main entrance door, and turned immediately into my office, which is on the left of the passage; I did not have a key for the main entrance door; I left the building that evening about a quarter past four o'clock; I have no knowledge as to the origin of the fire.

THOMAS STEERS.

Taken before me upon oath and acknowledged this 30th Day of January, A. D., 1874.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, JOHN BOWES, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Architect, being sworn, saith :

I believe the plan now produced and marked "A" represents the building burned on the 16th instant; I had an office in the wooden building attached, and which contained the model of the Library; my office was in two rooms encircling the model room; there was one window looking from 8 into the model room; I had control over the model room; I could not say whether that window was fastened that evening; communications were sometimes held through it; I could go into Mr. Fleming's offices from my own without passing outside the building by going through two doors on the ground floor; I did not have any keys for either of these doors; I have always made a practice of locking my office doors, and am positive I locked them that evening; I am not aware of any person having duplicate keys for my office doors; I cannot say whether the doors between my rooms and Mr. Deslaurier's apartments were open on the evening of the fire; they were used by the care-taker when lighting the fires; a person might possibly conceal himself in the loft over the model room, but such a thing is not at all probable; there were single French windows on my rooms; there was a stovepipe which came through the floor of room No. 3 from the room below; a castiron safety pipe was used in this floor for the pipe to pass through; some of the windows were fastened with bolts, and some with buttons; there was no tar on the premises; there were no precautions taken to extinguish fires in my offices.

JOHN BOWES.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 30th day of January, A. D., 1874, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, JAMES H. ROWAN, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Civil Engineer, being sworn, saith :

I left the building on the night of the fire between five and half-past five; I have not any knowledge either directly or indirectly as to the cause or origin of the fire; I was in rooms Nos. 4 and 8 a few minutes before 4 o'clock; I remember looking at the fire in room No. 8; my recollection of that fire is, that it was quite low at that time.

JAMES H. ROWAN.

Taken before me upon oath and acknowledged this 30th day of January, A.D., 1874.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, THOMAS BURPE, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, "Private Secretary," being sworn, saith :

I was in the offices of the Intercolonial and Pacific Railways that day, 16th; I left about half-past five that evening; I am aware of the place being burned; I have no knowledge either directly or indirectly as to the cause of the fire; I cannot give any information which would lead to its origin; I left Mr. Fleming in the office that evening; I fancy that the principal maps were in rooms 3 and 7.

THOMAS R. BURPE.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged before me this 30th day of January, A.D., 1874.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, JOHN A. WILLS, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Engineer, being sworn, saith :

I am Government Engineer of the Parliament Buildings; I remember the evening of the fire; I attached the hose to a hydrant opposite the back door on that evening; there was a full pressure of water from the tanks of the Parliament Buildings; it continued until the hose were removed; with the exception of a few lengths of hose all the hose used were in connection with the Buildings; they were in poor repair; we have a donkey engine which we use for filling the boilers, and for the purpose of throwing water to the attic; we did not use it that evening at the fire, the reason being, we have not got hose strong enough to stand the pressure; I believe we ought to have hose strong enough to stand it; I have no knowledge of the hose of the West and East block; I have a branch of hose on each hydrant, and about 300 feet over; I think we have a sufficiency; I was not in the Building when they came to get the hose to use at the fire; I have two assistants.

J. A. WILLS.

Taken before me upon oath and acknowledged this 30th day of January, A.D. 1874.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, WILLIAM YOUNG, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Chief Superintendent of the City Fire Brigade, being sworn, saith :

I remember the evening of the fire; when I arrived at it the fire was coming from room No. 8 into Deslaurier's apartments; there were very few people there then; the fire in my opinion must have been burning some time; my Fire Brigade was present that evening; I cannot say whether there was any neglect used in extinguishing the fire; I am of the opinion that the building was not burned in consequence of any neglect on the part of the Ottawa City Fire Company; that in consequence of the place of the fire not being known the City Brigade were delayed about 25 minutes; my men did their best to save the property; I am aware of the fire facilities in the Public Buildings; I do not consider the facilities for extinguishing fire in the attics sufficient for the purpose of saving them in case of fire; and also I am not aware of any parting walls coming through the roofs of the Buildings; on the evening of the fire it took two run of hose "from the Parliament Buildings" to supply the "Ottawa" hand engine; I do not believe that the hose in connection with the Parliament Buildings are sufficient to stand ordinary fire pressure for fire duty.

WILLIAM YOUNG.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 2nd day of February, A.D., 1874, before me.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, J. P. PIM, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Civil Engineer, being sworn, saith :

I remember the fire on the evening of the 16th of January last; I heard the first alarm of fire between 7 and $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7; when I arrived at it the fire appeared in No. 8 and Mr. Deslaurier's kitchen; I tried to enter at the main entrance, but found it locked; I did not notice any stairs on fire.

J. P. PIM.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 2nd day of February, A. D., 1874, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, TOUSSIENT TRUDEAU, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Deputy of the Minister of Public Works, being sworn, saith :

Mr. Deslaurier was care-taker of the building destroyed by fire on the 16th of January last; the building was under the direction of the Department of Public Works; I am aware of Deslaurier being appointed to take care of the building; I do not recollect of my attention being called to the advisability of water being brought to the building; I understand that the Superintendent of Police has charge of the fires of the Departmental Buildings; I have known Mr. Deslaurier for about ten years, and during that time have found him one of the most faithful servants in the employ of the Department.

T. TRUDEAU.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 2nd day of February, A. D., 1874, before me,

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

I, WILLIAM STEIL PETTEGREW, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Civil Service Clerk, being sworn, saith :

I remember the fire of the 16th of January last; I understood there was a fire by hearing the city alarm bell; I arrived at it about 12 or 15 minutes after hearing the alarm, and tried to enter the building by the main entrance door, but found it locked; I remained at the door for about a minute, and then went around to the western side of the building; I entered it through a window which, I think, was situated in room No. 15, and which I found open; there were two or three persons inside; I am not in possession of their names; I saw the fire in the rear part of the building on the lower storey; the sill of the window through which I entered was about 3½ feet from the ground; I cannot say in what manner the parties who were in the building entered; after I heard the alarm it might have been twelve or fifteen minutes before I arrived at the fire; I was about a minute at the main entrance door before I went around to the window through which I gained an entrance; the first alarm I heard was the City Hall bell; at the time of my arrival, I noticed about seven or eight persons including those in the building on south and west side; I believe there could not have been many persons on the east side on account of the quantity of smoke which was issuing on that side; when I was inside the building I saw the stairs at the north end on fire; the persons inside were endeavoring to save the property; I discovered the stairs to be on fire almost immediately on entering the building; from the time that I first heard the alarm to the discovery of the fire on the stairs was about fifteen minutes, I did not go near the eastern side of the building; I made my exit on the west side; I am positive the window by which I entered was open; previous to my first leaving the building, I was in for about five or seven minutes; I did not recognise any of the parties whom I saw at the beginning of the fire; we saved all we possibly could from the lower offices; the smoke in the rooms through which I passed was pretty dense; there did not appear to be any connection between the fire on the stairs and that in the back part of the house; I perceived a great deal of flame and smoke from the fire in the rear, and more flame and less smoke from the fire on the stairs.

W. S. PETTEGREW.

Taken before me upon oath and acknowledged this 2nd day of February, A. D., 1874.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.

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I, R. C. DOUGLASS, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Civil Engineer, being sworn, saith :

I remember the fire of the 16th January last ; when I had proceeded as far as the Eastern block, I perceived a fire in two of the upstairs windows ; when I had gotten to the building I went into Deslaurier's kitchen and saw the ceiling which was on fire falling ; I did not go near Deslaurier's stairs ; I would judge it to be about 10 feet from the door when I saw the embers falling ; I went into Deslaurier's parlor room No. 13, and then through to the north west side of the building ; I am under the impression it was room No. 14 ; there was a window open in this room through which furniture was being thrown ; I returned and went out by the kitchen door to the porch on the south east corner, through which I went and into room No. 11, and across the passage into room No. 9, and gave papers and other articles which were in the room to Mr. Pettegrew and several other gentlemen who were on the outside ; I think all the papers in this room were taken out ; to the best of my recollection I did not notice any fire on the back stairs or model house.

R. C. DOUGLASS.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 2nd day of February, A.D., 1874, before me.

J. T. C. BEAUBIEN, Coroner.
